



REMARKS

Claims 24 through 43 are pending, while claims 1 through 23 were originally cancelled in a Preliminary Amendment without prejudice or disclaimed.

Based on the Examiner's division of separate and distinct inventions, Applicants elect with traverse claims 24 – 36 (Group I) and Species A directed to the **latching valve**. The latching valve is specifically recited in claims 34, 35, and 36. Claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 37, 38, 40, 41, and 42 are generic to both a latching valve and a non-latching valve.

The traversal is made since the claims directed to an actuator system with an armature sensor, and the claims directed to a battery-operated actuator system with an external object sensor and an armature sensor can be examined at the same time.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes telephone call will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, he is respectfully invited to call to the undersigned representative.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2196.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan D. Zitkovsky, Reg. No. 37,482
5 Militia Drive
Lexington, MA 02421

Tel. +781-274-6692
Fax +781-274-6696

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

July 6 2004

Ivan D. Zitkovsky